

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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comprising:

An improved encoder for a CATV upstream data channel transmitter,

a convolutional encoder for receiving data values,
a bit-interleaver interconnected with said encoder, and
a symbol mapper interconnected with said bit-interleaver.

2. The encoder of claim 1, wherein said simple mapper is a QPSK or QAM mapper.

3. A bit interleaved decoder for a CATV upstream channel receiver, comprising:
a scorer for receiving symbols,
a bit de-interleaver interconnected with said scorer, and
a convolutional decoder interconnected with said bit de-interleaver.

4. A method for communicating over a noisy channel, comprising:
encoding a data stream with a convolutional encoder to provide an encoded data stream,
interleaving said encoded data stream, and,
retrieving interleaved encoded data and mapping said data into symbols.